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A/RES/53/168
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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 46 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.67)*]

53/168. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms the faith of the United Nations in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Recognizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations as well as the source of inspiration and a basis of subsequent progress in the field of human rights,

Concerned that human rights and fundamental freedoms are not fully and universally respected and continue to be violated in all parts of the world, and that people still suffer misery and are deprived of the full enjoyment of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and that some peoples still lack the full enjoyment of their right of self-determination,

Stressing the necessity for further national efforts as well as enhanced international cooperation, with a view to fully realizing all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the need to promote greater awareness of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other international human rights instruments,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that the international community must treat them globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming also the need to ensure full observance of the human rights of women and the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming further the need for the international community to continue to review and assess the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Declaration and to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome,

Mindful that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Declares solemnly its commitment to the fulfilment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations and as a source of inspiration for the further promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms – political, economic, social, civil and cultural – including the right to development.

86th plenary meeting
10 December 1998

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15 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 91

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/606/Add.5)*]

53/169. Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to the role of the United Nations in promoting international economic and social cooperation, including seeking solutions to international economic, social and related problems,

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

Expressing concern over the serious risks of marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the globalization process, including in the finance and trade sectors, and the increasing vulnerability of those developing countries that are integrating into the world economy, resulting particularly from the volatility of short-term capital flows and the accentuation of income disparities within and among countries,

Mindful, in the process of trade liberalization, of the diminution of trade preferential margins for developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States, and of the need for countries to take measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of the World Trade Organization, to address that diminution with a view to offsetting it,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities, through increased trade and capital flows and advancement in technology, for the growth of the world economy, for development and for the improvement of living standards around the world,

Underlining the need to work on a wide range of reforms to create a strengthened international financial system,

Stressing the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy to allow them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

Emphasizing that technical assistance is also vital in enabling developing countries to benefit from the international trading environment,

Underlining the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence so as to realize the mutually reinforcing objectives of poverty eradication and development,

Reiterating that the United Nations is in a unique position, as a universal forum, to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Emphasizing that the United Nations system has a key role in fostering greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in economic and development issues at the global level,

Recognizing the importance of appropriate policy responses at the national level by all countries to the challenges of globalization, in particular by pursuing sound macroeconomic and social policies, noting the need for support from the international community for the efforts, in particular of the least developed countries, to improve their institutional and management capacities, and also recognizing that all countries should pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promoting a favourable global economic environment,

Recalling the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa,[1] which provides an important framework for promoting partnership for growth and development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Noting the special high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, held on 18 April 1998, and the ministerial communiqué on market access adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its 1998 substantive session,[2]

Recalling the widely shared desire expressed during the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly, held on 17 and 18 September 1998, which constituted a renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, to continue discussions with a

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[1] *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ninth Session, Midrand, Republic of South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.4), part one, sect. A.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 5.

view to developing a coherent and effective response to the opportunities and challenges being offered by globalization and interdependence,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[3] wherein he identified, *inter alia*, the obstacles to the full participation of the African economies in the globalization process,

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation for development and in providing guidance on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of recognizing the needs of developing countries, particularly the special needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States, in the context of globalization, and urges the international community, including the World Trade Organization, to continue to grant more preferential treatment to developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre to help developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to address their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade, policy, improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, in particular in electronic commerce;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

5. *Underlines* the need to continue to work to ensure the full participation of all the developing countries in the benefits of globalization and also the need to reduce their vulnerability to the negative impacts of globalization and interdependence;

6. *Emphasizes* that concerted efforts should be made, through enhanced cooperation and coordination among all the relevant forums and institutions, to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the benefits of globalization and interdependence for the developing countries;

7. *Stresses* the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources;

8. *Strongly underlines* the importance of an enabling environment for investment, in particular foreign direct investment, market access, good governance, increase in the volume and effectiveness of official development assistance, tackling of unsustainable debt burdens, including through debt conversion measures, flexibility in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and support for regional cooperation and integration as priority areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable

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[3] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

development in all African countries and to encourage the participation of all African countries in the global economy, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

9. *Stresses* the need for continued and constructive dialogue in the appropriate forums among developed and developing countries on issues related to strengthening and reforming the international financial architecture;

10. *Recognizes* the urgency of working together in developing a global approach to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

11. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, in their special high-level meeting in 1999, also to address ways and means of optimizing the benefits and minimizing the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence, in particular for the developing countries;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in consultation with relevant organizations, in particular the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the regional commissions, an analytical report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, that examines the interrelated issues in order to facilitate better understanding of globalization and makes recommendations on, *inter alia*:

(*a*) The role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence;

(*b*) Promoting coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic and development issues at the global level in order to optimize the benefits and limit the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence;

13. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

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15 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 91 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/606/Add.1)*]

53/170. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/95 and 50/98 of 20 December 1995, 51/167 of 16 December 1996 and 52/182 of 18 December 1997, as well as relevant international agreements concerning trade, economic growth, development and interrelated issues,

Welcoming the ministerial communiqué on the theme "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization", adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998,[1]

Reaffirming the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa,[2] which provides an important framework for promoting a partnership for growth and development,

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 5.

[2] *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ninth Session, Midrand, Republic of South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.4), part one, sect. A.

Emphasizing that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic growth of the world economy, including the creation of employment, in particular for the growth and development of developing countries, and emphasizing also that each country is responsible for its own economic policies for sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-fifth session,[3]

Noting that the second Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 May 1998,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the expansion of international trade as an engine of growth and development and, in this context, the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

2. *Renews its commitment* to uphold and strengthen an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trade system, which contributes to the economic and social advancement of all countries and peoples by promoting the liberalization and expansion of trade, employment and stability and by providing a framework for the conduct of international trade relations;

3. *Deplores* any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed procedures on the conduct of international trade by unilateral actions inconsistent with the multilateral trade rules and regulations, including those agreed upon in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

4. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and related issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, on the basis of the outcome of its ninth session, to identify and analyse the implications for development of issues relevant to investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to invite the executive secretaries of the United Nations regional commissions to participate in the discussions of the Trade and Development Board, and encourages the continuation of such a practice in the future;

7. *Notes* the increasing importance and application of electronic commerce in international trade, and in this context welcomes the summit of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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[3] A/53/15 (Part IV). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 15*.

on the theme "Partners for Development", held at Lyon, France, from 9 to 12 November 1998, and urges the Conference, in cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and, in this regard, also notes the needs of the economies in transition;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of continued trade liberalization in developed and developing countries, including in sectors of export interest to developing countries, through, *inter alia*:

(*a*) Substantial reductions of tariffs, the rolling back of tariff peaks and the removal of tariff escalation;

(*b*) The elimination of trade-distorting policies, protectionist practices and non-tariff barriers in international trade relations;

(*c*) Ensuring that resort to anti-dumping duties, countervailing duties, and phytosanitary and technical standards is subjected to effective multilateral surveillance so that such measures respect and are consistent with multilateral rules and obligations and are not used for protectionist purposes;

(*d*) The improvement and renewal, by preference-giving countries, of their Generalized System of Preferences schemes with the objective of integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries, into the international trading system and of finding ways and means to ensure more effective utilization of the Generalized System of Preferences schemes, and in this context reiterates its original principles, namely, non-discrimination, universality, burden-sharing and non-reciprocity;

9. *Also reiterates* that it is an ethical imperative for the international community to arrest and reverse the marginalization of the least developed countries and to promote their expeditious integration into the world economy and, as declared in the ministerial communiqué on market access adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998,[1] that all countries should work together towards further enhanced market access for exports from least developed countries within the context of supporting their own efforts at capacity-building; welcomes the initiatives taken by the World Trade Organization in cooperation with other organizations in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted at its first Ministerial Conference, held at Singapore from 9 to 13 December 1996, including through effective follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development, held at Geneva on 27 and 28 October 1997; recognizes that the full implementation of the Plan of Action requires further progress towards duty-free imports from the least developed countries; and invites the relevant international organizations to provide enhanced technical assistance to help strengthen the supply capacity of the least developed countries so as to help them to take the fullest possible advantage of trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization;

10. *Stresses* the urgent need to facilitate the integration of the countries of Africa into the world economy, and in this context welcomes the action-oriented agenda for the development of Africa contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4] and endorses the call contained in the ministerial communiqué for continued efforts to enhance market access for products of export interest to African economies and

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[4] A/52/871–S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

support for their efforts at diversification and building of supply capacity, and in this context requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[5] taking into account the agreed conclusions of the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fifth session;[6]

11. *Also stresses* the need to give special attention, within the context of international cooperation on trade and development issues, to the implementation of the many international development commitments geared to meeting the special development needs and problems of small island developing States and of landlocked developing States and to recognize that developing countries that provide transit services need adequate support in maintaining and improving their transit infrastructure;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of the effective application by all members of the World Trade Organization of all provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations,[7] taking into account the specific interests of developing countries so as to maximize economic growth and developmental benefits for all, and the need for the effective implementation of the special provisions in the multilateral trade agreements and related ministerial decisions in favour of developing countries, including special and preferential treatment, and urges Governments and concerned international organizations to apply effectively the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries;[7]

13. *Also reiterates* that it is important that the momentum towards increased trade liberalization, particularly as regards products of interest to developing countries, be maintained and given attention in the work leading up to the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and that further liberalization be sufficiently broad-based to respond to the range of interests and concerns of all members, within the framework of the World Trade Organization, and in this regard invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide analytical support and technical assistance to developing countries for their effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations and in their formulation of a positive agenda for future trade negotiations;

14. *Welcomes* the launching of the substantive preparatory process for the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held at Bangkok in 2000, by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fifth session, with a view to the finalization of the agenda of the Conference by the Board at its nineteenth executive session, in December 1998, and considers that the tenth session of the Conference will provide an important opportunity for the United Nations system and the international community to make a collective reflection on development;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strengthening of, and the attainment of greater universality by, the international trading system and of accelerating the process directed towards accession to the World Trade Organization of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and also

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[5] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[6] A/53/15 (Part IV), chap. I, sect. E, agreed conclusions 454 (XLV). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 15*.

[7] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994–7).

emphasizes the necessity for Governments members of the World Trade Organization and relevant international organizations to assist non-members of the World Trade Organization so as to facilitate their efforts with respect to accession in an expeditious and transparent manner, on the basis of World Trade Organization rights and obligations, and for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization to provide technical assistance, within their mandates, that will contribute to the rapid and full integration of those countries into the multilateral trading system;

16. *Stresses* the need for improved measures to address the effects of the financial crisis on the international trading system and the development prospects of developing countries and the countries affected by the crisis, emphasizing that keeping all markets open and maintaining continued growth in world trade are key elements in overcoming the crisis, and in this context rejects the use of any protectionist measures; at a broader level, there is a need for greater coherence between the development objectives agreed to by the international community and the functioning of the international trading and financial system, and in this context calls for close cooperation between the organizations of the United Nations system and the multilateral trade and financial institutions;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of open regional economic integration in the creation of new opportunities for expanding trade and investment, stresses the importance of those initiatives being in conformity with World Trade Organization rules, where applicable, and, bearing in mind the primacy of the multilateral trading system, affirms that regional trade agreements should be outward-oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system;

18. *Reiterates* that, in line with Agenda 21[8] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[9] Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development and that, in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact are not used for protectionist purposes, and encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its work on trade, environment and development;

19. *Strongly underlines* the need for technical assistance to enable developing countries to take the fullest possible advantage of the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization, based on multilaterally agreed rules and regulations, and in this context emphasizes the importance of enabling the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in this area, and welcomes its collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the Bank for International Settlements and other relevant organizations in the course of its work;

20. *Emphasizes* that the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization is a key element with regard to the integrity and credibility of the multilateral trading system and the full

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] Ibid., annex I.

realization of the benefits anticipated from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, developments in the multilateral trading system and the implementation of the ministerial communiqué on market access adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/606/Add.1)*]

53/171. Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/169 and 48/170 of 21 December 1993, 49/102 of 19 December 1994 and 51/168 of 16 December 1996,

Recalling also the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community[1] and other relevant international legal instruments,

Recognizing that the overall socio-economic development efforts of the landlocked States in Central Asia, seeking to enter world markets through the establishment of a multicountry transit system, are impeded by a lack of territorial access to the sea as well as by remoteness and isolation from world markets and lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector in their transit developing neighbours due to their economic problems,

Reaffirming that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests,

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[1] TD/B/42(1)/11–TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

Supporting the current efforts being undertaken by the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, through relevant multilateral, bilateral and regional arrangements, to address issues regarding the development of a viable transit infrastructure in the region,

Taking note of the report prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit neighbours,[2] and considering that the problems of transit transport facing the Central Asian region need to be seen against the backdrop of economic changes and accompanying challenges, including especially the impact of those changes on the international and intraregional trade of the countries concerned,

Recognizing that, to be effective, a transit transport strategy for the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours should incorporate actions that address both the problems inherent in the use of existing transit routes and those associated with the early development and smooth functioning of new alternative routes, and welcoming, in this context, further cooperation of landlocked States with all interested countries,

Noting that there have been a number of important developments at the subregional and regional levels, including the signing of a transit transport framework agreement among States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization at Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 9 May 1998, the signing on 26 March 1998 by the heads of State of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Tashkent Declaration on the United Nations special programme for the economies of Central Asia,[3] the implementation of the expanded Transport Corridor-Europe-Caucasus-Asia programme and the signing of the Baku Declaration[4] on 8 September 1998,

Emphasizing once again the importance of strengthening international support measures to address further the problems of the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to improving the efficiency of the transit transport system in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Governments concerned, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and relevant regional and international organizations and in accordance with approved programme priorities and within existing financial resources, to continue elaborating a programme for improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours;

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[2] A/53/331, annex.

[3] A/53/96, annex II.

[4] A/C.2/53/4, annex.

3. *Also invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with the regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates and current resources, as well as with other relevant international organizations, to provide technical assistance and advisory services to the newly independent landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, taking into account the relevant transit transport agreements;

4. *Invites* donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions, within their mandates, to continue to provide the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours with appropriate financial and technical assistance for the improvement of the transit environment, including construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities and improved communications;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue studying, within the scope of the implementation of the present resolution, possible ways of promoting more cooperative arrangements between landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, and to encourage a more active supportive role on the part of the donor community;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with the regional commissions, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

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15 December 1998

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/606/Add.2)*]

53/172. The financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/180 of 18 December 1997 on global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries, as well as the ministerial communiqué on market access, adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998,[1]

Also reaffirming that global financial flows, in the context of financial globalization, have presented Governments, the multilateral financial institutions and the international community at large with new challenges and opportunities, and that they should constitute a very important element of the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions,

Mindful of the vital role of financing for fostering the economic development of the developing countries, and emphasizing the importance of adequate financial resources for development,

Recognizing the benefits of the increasing integration of global markets and the important role of capital flows for promoting economic development and social welfare,

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[1] *See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 5.

Deeply concerned at the overall declining trend in official development assistance, which is a significant external resource for financing development and an important source of support to the efforts of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to create an enabling environment for eradicating poverty and tackling basic social needs, especially where private capital flows may either be inadequate or unavailable,

Regretting that the current crisis in financial markets, characterized, *inter alia*, by massive and sudden outflows of capital from the affected countries and the sharp decline in private capital flows to developing countries and some economies in transition, has resulted in higher interest rate spreads, leading to a significant slowdown in economic activity,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the countries affected by the crisis to restore financial and economic stability, ease the social impact of the crisis and put their economies on the path to recovery, and in this context also welcoming the continued support of the international community, including the multilateral financial institutions, to the affected countries,

Deeply concerned that the international financial crisis has acquired extremely worrying dimensions, posing a threat to world economic development, and that if it were allowed to continue financial turmoil could result in major setbacks to the global economy, in particular to the progress that most developing countries have achieved in the 1990s,

Expressing concern at the negative effects of the financial crisis on international trade, in particular the sharp reduction in commodity prices and its negative effects on the development prospects for developing countries and some economies in transition, and emphasizing that keeping all markets open, in accordance with multilateral trade rules, and maintaining continued growth in world trade, are key elements in overcoming the crisis, and in this context rejecting the use of any protectionist measures,

Expressing concern that the financial crisis has also seriously affected the growth and development prospects of least developed countries,

Recognizing that the current crisis has exposed weaknesses in the international financial system and the urgent need to work on a wide range of reforms to create a strengthened international financial system with a view to enabling it to deal more effectively and in a timely manner with the new challenges of global financial integration,

Welcoming the convening of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions held in New York on 18 April 1998 and the convening of the meeting of the World Bank's "Exchange Programme" with a delegation of Ambassadors to the United Nations, led by the President of the Economic and Social Council, held at Washington, D.C., on 27 and 28 May 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Global financial flows and their impact on developing countries: addressing the matter of volatility",[2] the *World Economic and Social Survey, 1998*[3] and the *Trade and Development Report, 1998*;[4]

2. *Stresses* the importance of having an enabling international environment and a strong cooperative effort by all countries and institutions to support crisis-hit countries and to prevent further contagion, and calls on all countries, particularly major industrialized countries, which have significant weight in influencing world economic growth, to adopt and pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promote a favourable external economic environment for the recovery of the affected countries and countries in a critical economic situation;

3. *Also stresses* the importance at the national level of sound macroeconomic policies and policies aimed at strengthening institutional capacities and regulatory frameworks, especially the regulatory and supervisory systems of the domestic financial and banking sectors;

4. *Emphasizes* that the international financial institutions, in providing policy advice and prescriptions in the context of adjustment and financial crisis programmes, should ensure that they are sensitive to the specific circumstances of the concerned countries and to the special needs of developing countries and work towards the best possible outcome for the economies concerned;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of accelerating the growth and development prospects of least developed countries, which remain the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community, and calls upon development partners to carry on their efforts to increase official development assistance and their efforts aimed at strengthened debt relief, improved market access and enhanced balance-of-payments support;

6. *Stresses* the need for continued and constructive dialogue in the appropriate forums among developed and developing countries on issues related to strengthening and reforming the international financial architecture;

7. *Also stresses* the need for the international community to continue to work together in formulating a global approach towards financial crisis, and in this regard welcomes the efforts undertaken to strengthen further the cooperation and collaboration among the United Nations system, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international economic institutions in the areas of common and complementary objectives;

8. *Further stresses* the importance of the open high-level dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, and invites the Secretary-General to support further the Economic and Social Council in the organization of the high-level dialogue in 1999, in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996;

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[2] A/53/398.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.C.1.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.D.6.

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9. *Recognizes* the need to improve the capacities and modalities of the international financial institutions with regard to the prevention, management and resolution in a timely and effective manner of international financial crises;

10. *Stresses* the importance of strengthened collaboration between the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in specific areas where collaboration is needed, such as the financial sector, while recognizing the specific mandates of the two institutions, and also stresses the need for the institutions dealing with financial crises to keep in mind the overall objective of facilitating long-term development;

11. *Stresses* the need to endow the International Monetary Fund with adequate resources to provide emergency financing to countries affected by financial crises as a result, among others, of the high volatility of international capital flows, and in this context also stresses the importance of sound macroeconomic policies and policies aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities and regulatory frameworks;

12. *Also stresses* the need to strengthen international and national financial systems through a more effective national, regional and international surveillance of both the public and private sectors, based upon the improvement of the availability and transparency of information, as well as the strengthening of the role of the International Monetary Fund in this regard, and the collaboration of the World Bank with technical assistance and capacity-building in this matter;

13. *Invites* the International Monetary Fund and relevant international regulatory bodies to consider as quickly as possible additional regulatory and disclosure measures to ensure greater transparency of financial market participants, including international institutional investors, particularly of highly leveraged operations;

14. *Encourages* the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and other relevant forums to expedite the work relative to the greater involvement of the private sector in preventing and resolving financial crises;

15. *Emphasizes* that the opening of the capital account must be carried out in an orderly, gradual and well-sequenced manner, keeping its pace in line with the strengthening of the ability of countries to sustain its consequences, underscores the crucial importance in this regard of solid domestic financial systems and of an effective prudential framework, and invites the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and relevant international regulatory bodies to contribute to this process;

16. *Calls upon* the international community to pursue national and international efforts, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, to contribute to minimizing the excessive volatility of global financial flows and to distribute in a more equitable manner the costs of systemic adjustments between the public and private sectors;

17. *Invites* the International Monetary Fund to facilitate the dialogue among relevant actors to consider the possibility of establishing regulatory frameworks for short-term capital flows and trade in currencies;

18. *Recognizes* that a most important question that needs to be addressed by the international community in the process of globalization is the need to mobilize resources for such goals as poverty eradication, human resources development, and health and education;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts of the World Bank to help Governments to address the social consequences of crises, including the strengthening of social safety nets for the most vulnerable;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within their respective existing mandates and in consultation with the Bretton Woods institutions, to analyse the current trend in global financial flows and modalities to improve early warning, prevention and response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises in a timely manner, taking a comprehensive and long-term perspective, while remaining responsive to the challenges of development and the protection of the most vulnerable countries and social groups;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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A/RES/53/173
19 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 91 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/606/Add.2)*]

53/173. High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/179 of 18 December 1997,

Taking note of the views expressed by Governments, including those reflected in the notes by the Secretary-General of 24 March 1998[1] and 8 October 1998,[2] on the key elements that might be included in consideration of financing for development,

1. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 52/179 to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to undertake an in-depth examination of all inputs requested in the resolution, with a view to formulating a report containing recommendations on the form, scope and agenda of, *inter alia*, a summit, international conference, special session of the General Assembly or other appropriate high-level international intergovernmental forum on financing for development to further the global partnership for development, to be convened not later than the year 2001;

[1] A/52/840.

[2] A/53/470.

2. *Requests* the ad hoc working group to consider appropriate modalities that will ensure the completion of its work and the submission of specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session to serve as ex officio chairman of the ad hoc working group and to convene an organizational meeting of the ad hoc working group not later than January 1999 to decide on the modalities referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to develop arrangements for the effective direction and functioning of the ad hoc working group;

4. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, in close consultation with Member States, to designate two vice-chairpersons for the ad hoc working group, preferably before the convening of its organizational meeting in January 1999, bearing in mind appropriate representation;

5. *Requests* the Bureau of the Second Committee at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize briefings or panel discussions on important topics or significant trends and events that may enrich the deliberations of the ad hoc working group;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", a sub-item entitled "High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development".

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15 December 1998

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A/RES/53/174
19 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 91 (*c*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/606/Add.3)*]

53/174. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/200 of 21 December 1990, 47/185 of 22 December 1992, 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 51/169 of 16 December 1996, and stressing the urgent need to ensure their full implementation,

Recognizing that in many developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, the commodity sector remains the principal source of export revenues and of the creation of employment, income and savings, as well as a driving force of investment and a contributor to growth and development,

Expressing deep concern about the negative effects of recent unfavourable weather conditions on the supply side of commodity-dependent countries and the effects of the financial crisis on the demand for commodities, as well as the continuing decline of commodity prices, which adversely affect the economic growth of commodity-dependent countries, especially in Africa,

Concerned about the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in financing and implementing viable diversification programmes and in attaining access to markets for their commodities,

Emphasizing the necessity for the developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, for a domestic industrial transformation of their commodity production with a view to enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing their export earnings, thus promoting the sustainable economic growth of developing countries in their integration into the global economy,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects,[1]

1. *Notes* the need of the developing countries, in particular the commodity-dependent developing countries, for stable and more predictable commodity prices in the face of instability and decline in real terms of the prices of many commodities;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for developing countries that are heavily dependent on primary commodities to continue to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and liberalization of the trade and export sectors and enhance competitiveness;

3. *Expresses* the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through efficient and transparent price formation mechanisms, including commodity exchanges, and through the use of commodity price risk management instruments;

4. *Urges* developed countries to continue to support the commodity diversification and liberalization efforts of developing countries, especially African countries, in a spirit of common purpose and efficiency, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial assistance for the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification programmes;

5. *Urges* producers and consumers of individual commodities to intensify their efforts to reinforce mutual cooperation and assistance;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and sustainable development, while continuing with diversification efforts, in developing countries, especially in commodity-dependent countries, and, in this respect, stresses that:

(*a*) International support for the efforts of developing countries towards the industrial transformation of their commodities is required to increase their export revenues and to improve their competitiveness with a view to facilitating their integration into the global economy;

(*b*) In the context of the process of trade liberalization, the use of trade-distorting policies and practices, including tariff peaks, tariff escalations and non-tariff barriers, should be minimized as they have negative effects on the ability of developing countries to diversify their exports and to undertake the required restructuring of their commodity sector and as they could also adversely impact liberalization measures undertaken by commodity-dependent developing countries;

(*c*) In the light of the process of multilateral trade liberalization, which has led to the diminution of differentials accorded by preferred trade regimes, there is a need to take measures, as appropriate and consistent with international obligations, to address that diminution, in particular by strengthening technical assistance to and by addressing supply-side constraints faced by commodity-dependent developing countries, in order to improve the competitiveness of their commodity sector and to overcome difficulties encountered in their diversification programmes;

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[1] A/53/319, annex.

(*d*) In line with Agenda 21[2] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development; in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes;

(*e*) Effective financial cooperation to facilitate the management by commodity-dependent countries of excessive fluctuations in commodity export earnings should be maintained and further pursued;

(*f*) Technical cooperation in the areas of transfer of new technologies in production processes and training for technical, managerial and commercial staff of developing countries is of paramount importance for quality improvements in the commodity sector;

(*g*) Expansion of South-South trade and investment in commodities enhances complementarities and offers opportunities for intersectoral linkages within and among exporting countries;

(*h*) There is a need to promote research and development, to provide infrastructure and support services and to encourage investment, including joint ventures in developing countries engaged in the commodity and commodity-processing sectors;

7. *Encourages* the Common Fund for Commodities, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant bodies, to direct its commodity development programmes more towards commodity sector diversification projects, as well as to promote commodity market development in developing countries, with particular focus on the needs of least developed countries, and to explore effective ways and means of using the resources of the First Account of the Common Fund;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within its mandate, to provide assistance to developing countries in the financing of commodity diversification and to include issues related to commodities in the provision of analytical support and technical assistance to developing countries in their preparation for effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations and in formulating a positive agenda for future trade negotiations;

9. *Also invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider issues related to commodities in the preparation for its tenth session, to be held in Thailand in the year 2000;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the General Assembly at its fifty–fifth session on world commodity trends and prospects;

11. *Decides* to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session.

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex I.

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Fifty-third session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/606/Add.4)*]

53/175. Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993 and 50/92 of 20 December 1995, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[1] and the Agenda for Development,[2] as well as the results, as agreed, of all major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/164 of 16 December 1996 and 52/185 of 18 December 1997 on enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries,

Reaffirming the urgent need for further implementation in an effective, equitable and development-oriented way of existing mechanisms for the treatment of the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries in order to help them to exit from the rescheduling process and unsustainable debt burdens, and, in this context, stressing the need to agree upon equitable burden-sharing among the international public creditor community,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/51/48).

[2] Resolution 51/240, annex.

Welcoming and emphasizing the importance of the efforts of debtor countries, despite the great social cost often involved, in pursuing economic reform, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes aimed at achieving stability, raising domestic savings and investments, attaining competitiveness to take advantage of market access opportunities where available, reducing inflation, improving economic efficiency and addressing the social aspects of development, including the eradication of poverty as well as the development of social safety nets for the vulnerable and poorer strata of their populations, and encouraging them to continue in these efforts,

Noting that the ongoing international financial crisis is adding further burdens to the external debt problems of many developing countries and that a number of developing countries have continued to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion despite serious external and domestic financial constraints,

Noting also, in this context, the increasing significance of official development assistance as an external resource for many developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in the light of reduced private flows, and further that the overall declining trend in official development assistance is a cause for concern,

Stressing the need for a full, swift implementation of those initiatives, which will further assist developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries, especially in Africa, in their efforts to improve their debt situation, in view of their continued very high level of total debt stock and servicing burdens,

Noting the improvement in the debt situation of a number of countries and the contribution that the evolving debt strategy has made to this improvement, noting with appreciation the debt-relief measures taken by creditor countries both within the framework of the Paris Club and through the cancellation and equivalent relief of bilateral official debt, and welcoming the even more favourable debt-relief measures taken by the Paris Club on the basis of the Naples terms of December 1994 and, for the first time, on the basis of the Lyon terms,

Noting with concern the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of indebted developing countries as constituting an element adversely affecting their development efforts and economic growth, and stressing the importance of alleviating the onerous debt and debt-service burdens connected with the various types of debt of many developing countries on the basis of an effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable approach and, where appropriate, addressing the full stock of debt of the poorest and most indebted developing countries as a matter of priority,

Encouraging multilateral creditors to consider appropriate measures in the case of developing countries with exceptionally high levels of debt overhang,

Welcoming the decision of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to undertake a comprehensive review of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative as early as 1999,

Stressing the need for continuing global economic growth and the necessity for a continuing supportive international economic environment with regard to, *inter alia*, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access, trade practices, access to technology, exchange rates and international interest rates, and noting the continued need for resources for the sustained economic growth and sustainable

development of the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the debt situation of the developing countries as of mid-1998;[3]

2. *Recognizes* that effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries can contribute substantially to the strengthening of the global economy and to the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

3. *Notes* that further progress, including swift implementation of innovative approaches and concrete measures, is essential for contributing to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, particularly the poorest and heavily indebted countries;

4. *Also notes*, while recognizing the benefits of liberalization of international capital flows, the adverse impact of the volatility of short-term capital flows on exchange rates, interest rates and the debt situation of developing countries, and stresses the need for coherence in implementing policies as well as capital accounts liberalization in an orderly, gradual and well-sequenced manner to keep pace with the strengthening of the ability of countries to sustain its consequences, in order to mitigate the adverse impact of such volatility;

5. *Urges* the international community to consider voluntary measures and mechanisms, involving private creditors and taking into account existing frameworks, that would allow debtor countries breathing space through, *inter alia*, mutually agreed temporary suspension of payments while maintaining their access to interim financing, and, in this regard, welcomes the willingness of the International Monetary Fund to consider providing financing to members in arrears on their debt payments to some private creditors;

6. *Stresses* the urgent need to endow the International Monetary Fund with adequate resources to provide emergency financing to countries affected by financial crises as a result, *inter alia*, of the high volatilities of international capital flows and that continue to pursue a programme of economic stabilization and reform;

7. *Also stresses* the need for the Bretton Woods institutions to consider fully, when providing emergency financing, the special economic situations of indebted developing countries affected by natural disasters;

8. *Welcomes* the decisions announced by various creditor countries to cancel, partially or totally, the official bilateral debt of the countries of Central America that were most adversely hit by hurricane Mitch, as well as the decisions by donor countries to help reduce debt owed to multilateral institutions, while recognizing the need to ensure that adequate resources are still directed towards relief and

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[3] A/53/373.

rehabilitation efforts, also welcomes the proposals to discuss at the Paris Club meeting, to be held on 7 December 1998, further debt relief for the concerned countries, and calls upon the international financial institutions to help those countries in their reconstruction efforts, *inter alia*, by lessening the debt-service burden and considering appropriate additional measures and undertaking the early consideration of Honduras and Nicaragua for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

9. *Stresses* the importance for developing countries of continuing their efforts to promote a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment, thereby promoting economic growth and sustainable development, so as to favour their exit from debt and debt-servicing problems, and also stresses the need for the international community to promote a conducive external environment through, *inter alia*, improved market access, stabilization of exchange rates, effective stewardship of international interest rates, increased resource flows, access to international financial markets, flow of financial resources and improved access to technology for the developing countries;

10. *Also stresses* that the evolving debt strategy must be accompanied by a favourable and supportive international economic environment, including the full implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the Marrakesh ministerial decisions in favour of the least developed countries and the net food-importing developing countries;[4]

11. *Further stresses* the need for existing facilities to provide debt-relief measures through various debt conversion programmes, where possible, such as debt-equity swaps, debt-for-nature swaps, debt-for-child development swaps and other debt-for-development swaps, to be widely implemented so that the countries concerned may be assisted in their development efforts, as well as to support measures in favour of the most vulnerable segments of the societies of those countries and to develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects, in conformity with the priorities of the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in March 1995;[5]

12. *Recognizes* the need for attaching higher priority to social aspects in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and the extension by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund of the original two-year period for countries to begin qualifying for assistance until the end of the year 2000, and stresses that the Initiative offers an important opportunity for the heavily indebted poor countries to reach a sustainable external debt position;

14. *Calls* for the speedy and determined extension of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative to more countries, and encourages all eligible countries to take policy measures needed to embark on the process as soon as possible so that all can be in process by the year 2000;

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[4] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994–7).

[5] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

15. *Stresses* the need for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to address expeditiously the special needs of poor post-conflict countries in close cooperation with all relevant parts of the United Nations system, and, in this context, welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to add a degree of flexibility in its evaluation of track records of policy performance for countries receiving post-conflict assistance;

16. *Also stresses* the urgent need for effective mobilization of additional financial resources for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative from both bilateral and multilateral creditors without affecting the support required for other development activities of developing countries, and, in this regard, expresses its appreciation for contributions made by some bilateral donors to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund of the World Bank and the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility/Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund of the International Monetary Fund, urges other bilateral donors and invites other international financial institutions that have not yet finalized mechanisms for participation in the Initiative to do so as soon as possible, and calls upon bilateral and multilateral donors to contribute to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund to help the African Development Bank meet its share of Initiative costs;

17. *Calls upon* the industrialized countries that have not yet contributed to the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility/Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund to come forward immediately with their contributions;

18. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative flexibly, including shortening the interval between the decision and completion points, taking due account of the policy performance of the countries concerned, in a transparent manner and with the full involvement of the debtor countries;

19. *Also stresses* the importance of increased flexibility with regard to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative eligibility criteria, including continuously evaluating and actively monitoring the implications of the existing terms of the eligibility criteria so as to ensure sufficient coverage of heavily indebted poor countries, increased flexibility being, in this context, particularly important for known borderline cases and countries in post-conflict situations, in respect of, *inter alia*, avoiding delays in the establishment of a track record of economic performance caused by temporary setbacks due to external shocks, in order to help them to exit from the rescheduling process and from unsustainable debt burdens;

20. *Underlines* the importance of the transparency and involvement of debtor countries in any review and analysis that is conducted during the adjustment period;

21. *Welcomes* the implementation since 1994 by the Paris Club of the Naples terms, as well as the decision to go beyond the Naples terms to provide debt reduction for eligible countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted countries, and invites all other bilateral, multilateral and commercial creditors to make an appropriate and consistent contribution to the common objective of debt sustainability;

22. *Encourages* the international creditor community to consider appropriate measures in cases with a very high level of debt overhang, including, where appropriate, debt conversion measures for the low income countries in Africa, in particular the poorest among them, in order to make an appropriate and consistent contribution to the common objective of debt sustainability;

23. *Welcomes* the decision of the Boards of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank that the comprehensive review of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative should be undertaken as early as 1999, encourages the review's inclusion of the consideration of debt sustainability criteria, as well as a comprehensive study of the impact of traditional debt-relief efforts and its examination of the relationship between debt relief and poverty reduction within the recipient country, and recognizes that the comprehensive review should consider the inputs of other relevant international organizations;

24. *Invites* creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions, within their prerogatives, to continue the initiatives and efforts to address both the commercial debt problems of the least developed countries and the requests for continued mobilization of resources, including through the Debt-reduction Facility of the International Development Association, in order to help least developed countries reduce their commercial debt;

25. *Recognizes* the efforts of indebted developing countries in regard to fulfilling their commitments on debt servicing despite the high social cost incurred, and, in this regard, encourages private creditors and, in particular, commercial banks to continue their initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of middle-income developing countries, in particular those affected by the financial crisis;

26. *Stresses* the urgent need to continue to provide social safety nets to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in debtor countries, in particular low-income groups;

27. *Encourages* debtors and creditors to consider ways to ensure that future loans are used in such a way that they avoid having a negative impact on debt sustainability;

28. *Notes with concern* the continuing burden of debt and debt-service obligations of middle-income developing countries, including in particular those in Africa, and encourages creditors, including multilateral financial institutions, commercial banks and bilateral creditors, to continue to support those countries in addressing these obligations effectively;

29. *Expresses strong support* for the continuation of Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility operations, and, in this regard, emphasizes the urgency of securing the Facility's funding and sustenance;

30. *Stresses* the need to finalize negotiations as soon as possible for an adequate twelfth replenishment of the International Development Association to a level commensurate with the needs of concessional funding by the poorest developing countries;

31. *Reaffirms* the Mid-term Global Review of Progress towards the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[6] in particular the appropriate actions in favour of those countries concerning their official bilateral, commercial and multilateral debt;

32. *Stresses* the need for new financial flows to debtor developing countries from all sources, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, and urges creditor countries

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[6] Resolution 50/103, annex.

and multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, particularly to the least developed countries, in order to support the implementation of economic reforms and stabilization and structural adjustment programmes by the developing countries that will enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and attract new investment and to assist them in achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and the eradication of poverty;

33. *Also stresses* the importance of providing adequate resources for debt relief in the light of the adverse effects of the current international financial crisis on the mobilization of both domestic and external resources for the development of the least developed countries and Africa, and welcomes unilateral debt relief measures from creditor countries on top of the multilaterally agreed debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, bearing in mind that such unilateral actions strengthen the impact of the Initiative as a credible exit solution;

34. *Further stresses* the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of developing countries in debt management, and calls upon the international community to support their efforts towards that end;

35. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the private sector, to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since the beginning of the 1990s on development related to the question of the external debt problem of developing countries;

36. *Notes* the various proposals contained in the *Trade and Development Report, 1998*,[7] concerning the issue of the external debt of African countries, and requests the Secretary-General to report pertinent developments relating thereto to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.D.6.

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25 January 1999

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/607)*]

53/176. Action against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3514 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it, *inter alia*, condemned all corrupt practices, including bribery, in international commercial transactions, reaffirmed the right of any State to adopt legislation and to investigate and take appropriate legal action, in accordance with its national laws and regulations, against such corrupt practices, and called upon all Governments to cooperate to prevent corrupt practices, including bribery,

Concerned about the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Disturbed by the bribery of public officials by individuals and enterprises of other States in relation to international commercial transactions,

Recalling the further work carried out by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on elaborating the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials[1] and a code of conduct on

[1] Resolution 51/59, annex.

transnational corporations,[2] consideration of which helped call attention to and raise international awareness of the adverse consequences of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions,

Taking note of the Rules of Conduct to Combat Extortion and Bribery in International Business Transactions of the International Chamber of Commerce,

Recalling its resolution 51/191 of 16 December 1996, by which it adopted the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions, and its resolution 52/87 of 12 December 1997, by which it called for further measures to implement the Declaration,

1. *Welcomes* recent multilateral initiatives to combat corruption including, *inter alia*, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption,[3] adopted by the Organization of American States, the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, adopted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Dakar Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption,[4] the Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime,[5] and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of member States of the European Union;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Promotion and maintenance of the rule of law: action against corruption and bribery";[6]

3. *Commends* the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Secretariat in combating corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, including the convening of an open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to take all possible measures to further the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions[7] and relevant international declarations and to ratify, where appropriate, existing instruments against corruption;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other competent bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and agreed work programmes, to assist Member States, at their request, in implementing national programmes to strengthen accountability and transparency and in implementing relevant conventions, declarations and instruments to combat corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, and, in that context, welcomes the valuable work done by the United Nations Development Programme in the field of governance;

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[2] E/1991/31/Add.1.

[3] See E/1996/99.

[4] See E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1, chap. I.

[5] See E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2, chap. I.

[6] A/53/384.

[7] Resolution 51/191, annex.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on measures taken by Member States and competent international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to implement the present resolution.

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A/RES/53/177
28 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 92 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/607)*]

53/177. Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991, 49/108 of 19 December 1994 and 51/170 of 16 December 1996 on industrial development cooperation,

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their twenty-second annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 1998, on the relevance of industrialization for development and the importance of international cooperation to support the developing countries in this field,[1]

Recognizing the increasing role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,[2]

[1] A/53/466, annex.

[2] See A/53/254.

1. *Reaffirms* that industrialization is a key element in the promotion of the sustainable development of developing countries, as well as in the creation of productive employment, the eradication of poverty and facilitating social integration, including the integration of women into the development process;

2. *Stresses* the importance of domestic industrial transformation in developing countries to increase the value added of their export earnings, so that they may benefit fully from the process of globalization and trade liberalization;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of industrial development cooperation and a positive investment and business climate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. *Also emphasizes* the importance of a favourable international and national environment for the industrialization of developing countries, and urges all Governments to adopt and implement development policies and strategies that promote, within a framework of transparent and accountable industrialization policies, *inter alia*, enterprise development, foreign direct investment, technological adaptation and innovation, expanded access to markets and the effective use of official development assistance to enable developing countries to enhance an environment attractive to investment so as to augment and supplement domestic resources for the expansion, diversification and modernization of their industrial productive capacity in the context of an open, equitable, non-discriminatory, transparent, multilateral and rule-based international trading system;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of technology transfer to the developing countries as an effective means of international cooperation in the field of industrial development;

6. *Recognizes* the continuing use of official development assistance also for industrial development in the developing countries, and calls upon donor countries and recipient countries to continue to cooperate in their efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of official development assistance resources devoted to industrial development cooperation;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance, for developing countries, of financing for industrial development, including market-based mechanisms and instruments as well as innovative funding modalities, such as co-financing schemes and trust funds, debt-equity swaps and, as appropriate, other debt relief measures and official development assistance specifically designed to strengthen the industrial capacities of developing countries through, *inter alia*, the facilitation of private capital flows, and, in this regard, requests relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the context of their strategic partnership, to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to mobilize resources for industrial development, especially by means of investment promotion activities, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the encouragement of practices to promote employment in industries and various forms of business partnerships, such as industrial joint venture schemes, enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and venture capital funds for industrial development;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in providing effective support for the sustainable industrial development of developing countries, calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue carrying out its central coordinating role within the United Nations system in that respect, and welcomes the efforts of the United Nations

Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its cooperation with the rest of the United Nations system at both the headquarters and the field levels by, *inter alia,* actively participating in the resident coordinator system, so as to enhance the effectiveness, relevance and development impact of such support;

9. *Calls upon* the international community and the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to support the efforts of the developing countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves with respect to, among other things, trade in manufactured products, industrial investments and business partnerships, and industrial technology and scientific exchanges;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to continue undertaking in-depth assessment, analysis and dissemination of best practices in the area of industrial policies and strategies and of lessons learned in industrial development, taking into account the financial crisis and the impact of globalization on the industrial structure of the developing countries, so as to support and boost South-South cooperation by providing practical insights and ideas for international industrial development cooperation and for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

11. *Welcomes* the promising structural transformation and revitalization of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as well as its new approach in providing comprehensive packages of integrated services to its member States and the strengthening of its field representation, and requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to accord priority to the needs of the least developed countries and countries in the African region;

12. *Also welcomes* the focus of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization both on the strengthening of industrial capacities and on cleaner and sustainable industrial development in the context of its new programme reorientation, as well as its cooperation with the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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A/RES/53/178
28 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/608/Add.1)*]

53/178. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993, 49/92 of 19 December 1994 and 51/173 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy, and the Agenda for Development,[1]

Recalling also the results, as agreed, of all major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[2] on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

2. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy in the remaining years of the 1990s, in close collaboration with, *inter alia*, efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[3] and its implementing arm, the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;[4]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with all concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other relevant international organizations, to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session an analytical report containing a thorough evaluation of the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and of the implementation of the Strategy, including the progress made and the constraints encountered therein;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Sustainable development and international cooperation: implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade".

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[2] A/53/301.

[3] Resolution 46/151, annex.

[4] See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3–14 September 1990* (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

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A/RES/53/179
28 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/608/Add.2)*]

53/179. Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/187 of 22 December 1992, 48/181 of 21 December 1993, 49/106 of 19 December 1994 and 51/175 of 16 December 1996,

Reaffirming also the need for the full integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy,

Noting the progress made in these countries in achieving macroeconomic stabilization in the course of structural reforms, which require more active investment policies,

Noting also the aspiration of the countries with economies in transition towards the further development of regional and interregional cooperation,

Noting with satisfaction that some countries with economies in transition that are more advanced in reforming their economies have been more capable of maintaining their internal and external financial stability while facing present global financial turmoils,

Recognizing the need to ensure favourable conditions for market access of exports from these countries, in accordance with multilateral trade agreements,

Expressing concern that the economies in transition have become more vulnerable to and have been adversely affected by volatile fluctuations of short-term capital flows,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the measures undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system to implement General Assembly resolutions on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

3. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in collaboration with relevant non-United Nations multilateral and regional institutions, to continue to conduct analytical activities and provide policy advice and technical assistance to the Governments of the countries with economies in transition in strengthening the social and political framework for economic and market reforms, thereby creating, in particular, an enabling environment for foreign investment, and in the early identification of nascent crises in order to ensure their economic and financial stability;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[1] A/53/336.

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28 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (*c*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/608/Add.3)*]

53/180. Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 52/192 of 18 December 1997 on the follow-up to the Conference and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements,

Also recalling that, in paragraph 13 of its resolution 51/177, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, together with the Commission on Human Settlements, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Further recalling paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in which the Conference recommended that the General Assembly consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Conference,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, in which it, *inter alia*, decided to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the modalities of which were to be decided on at its fifty-third session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[2] containing proposals on the scope and organizational aspects of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[2] concerning the modalities for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Decides* that the special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be held in June 2001 for a period of three working days;

3. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[3] and the Habitat Agenda[1] and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

4. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

5. *Also decides* that the Commission on Human Settlements, which is currently scheduled at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions to focus on monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and assessing its impact, should serve as the preparatory committee for the special session;

6. *Further decides* that the Commission, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, shall be open-ended to allow full participation of all States;

7. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of local authorities, other Habitat Agenda partners and relevant actors of civil society, in particular the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Habitat II Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

8. *Invites* Governments to play an active role in the preparatory process, *inter alia*, through an intensified exchange of experiences, and welcomes the proposals received so far from Singapore to hold

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[2] A/53/267.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

an international conference on model cities, from 19 to 21 April 1999, and from Germany to hold an international conference, entitled "Urban 21", in 2000;

9. *Invites* the Commission on Human Settlements, serving as the preparatory committee, to meet for two working days back-to-back with its forthcoming seventeenth session in order, *inter alia*, to elect its officers, adopt appropriate rules of procedure and consider the organization of work for its first substantive session, to be held at Nairobi for five working days in May 2000, and invites the preparatory committee, at its first substantive session, to consider the modalities, duration, date and agenda for the second substantive session, to be held in 2001;

10. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to devote its coordination segment in 2000 to human settlements issues and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

11. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council actively to promote and coordinate the role of the regional commissions in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the regional and subregional levels;

12. *Invites* the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to consider convening high-level meetings to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the Conference and to report the results of their review to the Economic and Social Council;

13. *Requests* other relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the funds and programmes, consistent with their respective mandates, to contribute, as appropriate, to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the national, regional and global levels;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek extrabudgetary resources to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to send representatives to the sessions of the preparatory committee and the special session of the General Assembly in June 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

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A/RES/53/181
28 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (*d*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/608/Add.4)*]

53/181. Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994, 50/122 of 20 December 1995, 51/174 of 16 December 1996 and 52/186 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also the adoption of the Agenda for Development[1] and the relevant provisions on its follow-up and implementation, and the need to give impetus to international economic cooperation for development so as to follow up on the Agenda effectively,

Expressing satisfaction with the holding on 17 and 18 September 1998 of the first high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, including the use of panels which were not part of the formal proceedings and round-table discussions which promoted interactive dialogue,

1. *Reaffirms* the continuing need to strengthen constructive dialogue and genuine partnership in order to promote further international economic cooperation for development;

2. *Stresses* that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving

[1] See resolution 51/240.

development, as well as for improving the international economic environment so that it is conducive to such development, and that the United Nations system should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

3. *Decides* to hold biennially a renewal of the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, to provide impetus for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development;

4. *Also decides* that, building on the experience of the high-level dialogue held on 17 and 18 September 1998, the theme and the modalities of the second high-level dialogue will be decided through the intergovernmental process at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental organizations, to propose themes for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development for the second high-level dialogue for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the appropriate item, the sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership".

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A/RES/53/182
2 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (*e*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/608/Add.5)]

53/182. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in the year 2001,

1. *Welcomes and accepts* the generous offer of the European Union to host the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first semester of the year 2001;

2. *Designates* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the Secretary-General of the Conference, and requests him to make all necessary preparations for the Conference;

3. *Decides* to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first semester of the year 2001 for a duration of seven days, at a venue and time to be determined by the Secretary-General of the Conference in consultation with the European Union;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to organize the intergovernmental preparatory committee (in two parts) and the three expert-level preparatory meetings referred to in paragraph 1 (*b*) of resolution 52/187;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with relevant organizations and agencies, to organize well-focused sectoral and thematic

or, where appropriate, country-specific round-table meetings during the Conference to contribute to the work of the Conference;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to link the forthcoming round-table and consultative group meetings to the preparatory process of the Conference, and to ensure that they make substantive contributions to the Conference;

7. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Convenor of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement in the preparations for the Conference of United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene an inter-agency meeting to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant institutions, for the purpose of preparations for and follow-up to the Conference;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make arrangements, on the basis of consultations with Member States, to facilitate the involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process and the Conference;

10. *Decides* to defray the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings and the Conference itself through the use of extrabudgetary resources and, should those resources prove to be insufficient, to consider all other options;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, its objectives and its significance;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

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15 December 1998

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A/RES/53/183
2 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (c)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/608/Add.6)]

53/183. Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994, 50/124 of 20 December 1995, 51/176 of 16 December 1996 and 52/188 of 18 December 1997 on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Noting that, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 52/188, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session for a duration of three days, from 30 June to 2 July 1999, at the highest possible level of participation, to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/8 of 23 July 1998 on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action,[2]

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] A/53/407.

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1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Programme of Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

3. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek extrabudgetary resources to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in sending representatives to the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, which is to serve as the preparatory meeting for the special session of the General Assembly, and to the special session of the Assembly from 30 June to 2 July 1999 on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Decides* that the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, meeting as the preparatory committee for the special session, shall be open-ended to allow the full participation of all States;

6. *Invites* all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute, as appropriate, to the special session as well as to its preparation;

7. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the special session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

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A/RES/53/184
2 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (g)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/608/Add.7)*]

53/184. Cultural development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996 and 52/197 of 18 December 1997 on cultural development,

Noting the fact that public opinion throughout the world as well as Governments and non-governmental organizations have become much more sensitive to the need for better integration of the cultural dimension into the entire development process, as a result of the World Decade for Cultural Development[1] and the work of the World Commission on Culture and Development,

Acknowledging with satisfaction the active participation of Member States, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in the implementation of projects of national, regional and interregional scope aiming at the promotion of the objectives of the Decade and its follow-up, and in the work of the World Commission,

Taking note of the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development, held at Stockholm from 30 March to 2 April 1998,

[1] See resolution 41/187.

99-76531

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Invites* all States, intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations:

(*a*) To implement the recommendations of the Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development[3] adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development;

(*b*) To cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the purpose of ensuring effective follow-up to the Action Plan;

(*c*) To intensify their efforts to integrate cultural factors into their development programmes and projects so as to ensure sustainable development that fully respects cultural diversity, taking into account their cultural values and identity;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account the diversity of cultures and the need to apply the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[2] A/53/321.

[3] Ibid., annex, appendix.